

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~fireplace-assembly~~ unit of the type for use as a free-standing unit or installed in a receiving structure, the unit comprising:

an outer shell:

~~a fireplace housing~~ a firebox having an interior fire containment area, the firebox being integrally contained within the outer shell and having an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and

a cover panel attached to at least one of the outer shell and the fire box, the cover panel covering at least a portion of the opening, the cover panel being configured to have a first transmittance of light therethrough in a first direction and a second transmittance of light therethrough in a second direction, ~~where-in~~ wherein the second transmittance is greater than the first transmittance.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The-assembly~~ unit of claim 1 wherein light traveling in the first direction travels from an area exterior to the fire containment area through the cover panel into the fire containment area and light traveling in the second direction travels from the fire containment area through the cover panel into the area exterior to the fireplace housing.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The-assembly~~ unit in claim 1 wherein the cover panel is a one-way mirror.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The-assembly~~ unit in claim 1 wherein the cover panel includes a reflective coating on one side of the cover panel.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The-assembly~~ unit in claim 4, wherein the coating is a half-silvered coating.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit in claim 1 wherein the at least a portion of the cover panel is comprised of multiple layers.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit in claim 6 wherein at least a portion of at least one layer of the multiple layers is covered by a coating, and wherein the coating is configured to provide the first transmittance and the second transmittance.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the cover panel includes multiple panel portions covering the opening in the firebox~~fireplace housing~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit of claim 1, ~~further comprising: wherein at least one of the outer shell and the firebox~~
~~the fireplace housing~~ having multiple openings in communication with the fire containment area; and
 at least one of the multiple openings ~~at least partially being~~ covered by at least one cover panel.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit of claim 1 wherein the cover panel is moveable relative to the ~~fireplace housing~~ firebox between a first position covering at least a portion of the opening and a second position that allows access into the fire containment area.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit of claim 1 wherein the cover panel includes a moveable door.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly~~ unit of claim 1 wherein the cover panel has at least one surface that is generally a flat surface.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly unit~~ of claim 1 wherein the fireplace-housing unit is a housing for a direct-vent, gas-burning fireplace-assembly unit; and further comprising:

a gas burner in the fire containment area.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly unit~~ of claim 1 wherein the fireplace assembly includes an exterior housing and the cover panel is sealably attached to the exterior housing~~firebox~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~assembly unit~~ of claim 1 wherein the fireplace-housing unit is a wall-mounted fireplace installation, and further comprising a frame surrounding the cover panel.

16. (Currently Amended) A fireplace-assembly unit, comprising:

an outer shell;

~~a fireplace housing~~ a firebox within the outer shell, the firebox having an interior fire containment area and an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and;

a cover panel sealably attached to the firebox and covering at least a portion of the opening, at least a portion of the cover panel having a first light transmittance therethrough in a first direction inwardly from an exterior area through the cover panel and into the fire containment area, and the cover panel having a second light transmittance therethrough in a second direction outwardly from the fire containment area through the cover panel to the exterior area, the second light transmittance being greater than the first light transmittance.

17. (Currently Amended) A fireplace-assembly unit, comprising:

an outer fireplace shell;

~~a fireplace housing having an~~ inner shell within the outer fireplace shell, the inner shell having an interior fire containment area ~~within the outer shell~~ and an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and

a cover panel mounted to at least one of the outer fireplace shell and the inner shell, the cover panel covering the opening in the fireplace housing, the cover panel includes a one-way mirror configured to have a first light transmittance therethrough in a first direction inwardly from an exterior area through the one-way mirror and into the fire containment area, and a second light transmittance greater than the first light transmittance and in a second direction outwardly from the fire containment area through the cover panel and to the exterior area.

18. (Currently Amended) A fireplace-assembly unit, the unit comprising:

an outer fireplace shell;

~~a fireplace housing~~ a firebox integrally contained within the outer shell and having an interior fire containment area ~~with and~~ an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and

a cover panel coupled to the firebox and covering at least a portion of the opening and configured with a first visual characteristic that substantially blocks visibility into the fire containment area from an area outside of the fire containment area when there is not a fire in the fire containment area, and the cover panel having a second visual characteristic different from the first visual characteristic that makes the at least a portion of the cover panel appear substantially transparent when a fire is burning in the fire containment area allowing a person to see into the fire containment area.

19. (Currently Amended) A fireplace-assembly unit of the type for use as a free-standing unit or installed in a receiving structure, the unit comprising:

an outer fireplace shell;

~~a fireplace housing~~ a firebox within the outer shell and having an interior fire containment area and having an opening in communication with the fire containment area; and

a cover panel coupled to the firebox and covering at least a portion of the opening, the cover panel being a one-way mirror with a reflective surface oriented to provide a mirrored surface visible from a position exterior of the

fire containment area when a fire is not burning in the fire containment area and being substantially translucent or transparent from the position exterior of the fire containment area when a fire is burning in the fire containment area.

20. (Currently Amended) A fireplace assembly unit, comprising:
~~a fireplace housing having an outer shell containing an integral~~ firebox with an opening;
a burner assembly in the firebox; and
a cover panel connected to the firebox and covering the opening in the firebox, the cover panel being a ~~one-way mirror~~ made of a tempered, high-temperature resistant material.
21. (New) The fireplace unit of claim 1, wherein the fireplace unit is one of a free-standing stove, fireplace insert, or fireplace.
22. (New) The fireplace unit of claim 1, wherein the cover panel is formed of a high-temperature resistant glass.
23. (New) The fireplace unit of claim 1, wherein the cover panel is mounted attached directly to the outer shell.
24. (New) The fireplace unit of claim 1, wherein the cover panel is mounted directly to the firebox.